



Fire Safe Sonoma, Inc.

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Good News! Free Chipper Service for Fitch Mountain!

Thanks to generous grants from Fire Free Fitch and Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Fire Safe Sonoma in conjunction with Healdsburg Fire Department is please to offer a chipper program for Fitch Mountain residents. Three hours of free chipper service will be available to Fitch Mountain residents. The purpose of the free chipper program is to encourage residents to create defensible space by making it easier to dispose of trimmings.

Defensible space has been clearly demonstrated to help save homes in wildfire. In 2008, state law increased the mandatory defensible space radius to 100 feet (or to the property line).

Defensible space does NOT mean moonscape. Defensible space simply means that you have thinned and removed excess vegetation that will allow fire to move across the surface. For more details about how to create defensible space, download a copy of *Living with Fire in Sonoma County* from www.firesafesonoma.org or pick up a copy from the Healdsburg Fire department.

In order to participate in the program, please fill out the attached "Request for Chipping Form" and return it to your neighborhood group contact person. Fire Free Fitch will coordinate a chipping day in your neighborhood based on the requests received, and advise you of the scheduled chipping day. We also ask that you send in the "Follow up Questionnaire" when you have completed your work.

The free chipper service will not spend more than three hours at any one address. Most homeowners will be able to make a considerable dent in their brushy vegetation with two hours of chipping. As a guide to what a two hour chipper pile might look like think of a 100 foot row with no brush or trees stacked on top of one another with the large ends pointed toward the access road/driveway, no berries vines or grass. Obviously, many of you won't be able to single stack your vegetation, and will have to pile brush not to impede roadway. This description is intended only to give you a basic idea of how much they might be able to do. Read and follow the attached guidelines carefully so your pile can be chipped efficiently. If you have piles that will require more than three hours to chip, you can enter into a separate contract with the chipper contractor to chip the extra material. Even if you have to pay some extra, you will likely save money because the contractor will already be on site. You will be responsible for disposing of any extra materials. If you have any questions, contact us.

Thanks for helping to make your entire community more fire safe! For questions about the chipper program, please contact Fire Free Fitch at 707-433-4111 or at firefreefitch@yahoo.com. **Please return applications to the Healdsburg Fire Department at 601 Healdsburg Ave. or Fax to 431-3146.**

CHIPPER PROGRAM APPLICATION

Name: _____ Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Assessors Parcel Number: _____ Address: _____

City/Zip: _____ Nearest Cross Street: _____

Are you the owner of the property? Yes [] No []

Owners Name (if different): _____ Contact Phone (if different): _____

Please tell us how much you anticipate that you will have ready for the chipper:

Number of piles: _____ Total size of piles combined: W _____ (X) L _____ (X) H _____

Approximately how many acres of property will you clear? _____

Where will the material be located?* On the shoulder of a Road [] Driveway [] Other [] _____

**It is essential you do not obstruct any roadways, driveways or other access routes with your material.*

I have completed the requirements on the attached "How to Make a Chipper Pile" and agree to allow Fire Safe Sonoma Inc.'s private contractor admittance onto my property in order to access the pile for chipping. To minimize program costs, chips will be broadcast upon your property unless it is deemed impractical by the contractor. Spreading piles of chips is the responsibility of the property owner or resident. I understand that Fire Safe Sonoma provides this service through contracts with private chipping contractors who have the final authority to determine if a pile is suitable for chipping. I understand that if my property takes more than three hours to chip, I will be responsible for any extra time. I understand that if the pile is not prepared per the checklist, it will not be chipped, and that I will be responsible for disposing of any unchipped materials. Fire Safe Sonoma provides the contractors with a schedule, but final decisions for scheduling of chipping are made by the contractor. I understand that the chipper will not spend more than four hours on any one property. If the amount I have to chip is in excess of four hours chipper time, I am responsible for making arrangements to dispose of the remainder. I also understand that if I am not the property owner, it is my responsibility to obtain permission from the owner to conduct clearing activities. In addition, I will comply with the chipping crews' decisions as to where chipped material is deposited because safety is their foremost concern. I will not make any attempt to load brush into the chipping machine. I understand that all work will be halted should this attempt is made. I understand that Fire Safe Sonoma is not obligated to perform this service and that Fire Safe Sonoma, the City of Healdsburg, Sonoma County DES or Cal Fire are not liable for its failure to perform this service or for the negligent performance of this service.

Signature

Name (Printed)

Date

**Please complete and return this form to the Healdsburg Fire Department at
601 Healdsburg Ave. or Fax to 431-3146**

Fire Safe Sonoma gladly accepts your donations. Fire Safe Sonoma is a 501 (c)(3) public charity and donations to the organization are fully tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Your donation will help us to continue programs like this one.



How to Make a Chipper Pile:

- ◆ Chipping will only be done along road or driveway frontages which will allow the crew to work from the road or driveway. **DO NOT BLOCK ROADWAYS.**
- ◆ Piles must be stacked with the cut ends facing the same direction, pointing towards access route to piles.
- ◆ All material chipped will be blown back onto the property. You are responsible for spreading out the piles of chips after the contractor has gone.
- ◆ Piles must be placed within 5 feet of chipper access.
- ◆ Piles must be placed on the uphill side of road or driveway.
- ◆ Please don't put piles within 10 feet of power poles.
- ◆ Make piles wider and spread out rather than taller.
- ◆ Recently cut vegetation chips better than old dried out branches and shrubs. Old piles or materials may not be chipped by the contractor.
- ◆ Piles must be free of roots or stumps, rocks and mud, poison oak, blackberries and other vines, scotch or French broom and gorse.
- ◆ Make certain there are no nails, wires or any metal pieces in wood. Do not put construction-type wood such as fence posts or 2x4s in your pile.
- ◆ The chipper can not chip rakings or piles of needles, leaves or duff.
- ◆ The chipper can handle material up to 7" in diameter (no root balls).
- ◆ You do not have to be home when the chipper comes.
- ◆ If the pile is not prepared per this checklist, it may not be chipped. You will be responsible for disposing of any unchipped materials.





POST CHIPPER USE SURVEY

We can use your help! Data about how much you have cut for the chipper program will be very helpful to us for future grant writing projects. Please complete this form AFTER you have completed all of your brush work, and send it to Fire Safe Sonoma at the address below. Thank you!

Chipping: Number of piles: _____ Total size of piles combined: W _____ (X) L _____ (X) H _____

Approximately how many acres of property did you clear? _____

How many hours did it take you to prepare your material? _____

What would you do with this material if this program were not available?

Burn it [] Leave on property [] Chip [] Take to Sonoma County Disposal Facility []

If you would take it to Sonoma County Disposal, how many miles (round trip) is that? _____

If you hired someone to cut and stack the material for you, how much did it cost? _____

Signature

Date

**Please send the completed form to:
2300 County Center Drive, 221A Santa Rosa, CA 95403
Fax 707.565.1172 or email csafford@mcn.org (preferred)**

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